

# Reader's Guide

Thank you for your interest in revision of the Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

We invite you to participate in reviewing the *Draft Land Management Plan* and *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* and provide your comments during this important phase of the plan revision process. A 90-day public comment period starts with publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. Comments must be postmarked or emailed no later than November 28, 2012.

These materials will help you review and comment on the *Draft Land Management Plan* and *Draft Environmental Impact Statement*:

- This *Reader's Guide*
- *Questions and Answers for the Draft Land Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement*
- *Summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement*
- *Draft Land Management Plan* and appendices
- *Draft Environmental Impact Statement*
- *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* appendices
- Maps

These documents are available on the Prescott's website at:

[www.fs.usda.gov/detail/prescott/landmanagement/?cid=stelprdb5342004](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/prescott/landmanagement/?cid=stelprdb5342004)

These documents are also available for viewing at the Ranger District offices in Prescott, Chino Valley, and Camp Verde. Compact discs (CDs) or hard copies of these documents are available by contacting one of the Plan Revision Team Members listed below.

## Review Tips

- Start by reading the *Summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement*
- Look over parts of the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement*. Chapter 1 summarizes the revision process, discusses the purpose and need for the plan revision, and describes the five need for change topics. Chapter 2 describes the alternatives, and chapter 3 describes the environmental consequences of implementing each of the alternatives. A good way to become familiar with the alternatives is the comparison tables at the end of chapter 2. Chapter 4 is the list of preparers and contributors and the distribution list for the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement*.
- The *Draft Land Management Plan* describes management direction for the proposed revised plan in detail.

- The *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* appendices contain further details about analysis that was conducted in developing the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement*. It includes additional details on specific topics, such as potential wilderness evaluation, timber and grazing suitability, and sustainability analysis.
- Specific comments on how to improve the proposed draft plan, what you prefer in other alternatives or important things you think we missed in the alternatives, are very helpful.
- We can better respond to your comments if you are as specific as possible and if you cite the location(s) in the document of the section to which you are directing your comments.
- If you reference other documents in your comments, please attach complete copies, or links to them. If complete copies are not available, please provide the cover page and applicable pages from them.

## Tips on effective commenting

Now is your chance to comment on the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* and *Draft Land Management Plan*.

First, there are a few important points you need to know about how we respond to comments and how we can both get the most out of your review of these documents. If you are going to take time to comment, you want it to count.

Substantive comments provide factual information, professional opinion, or informed judgment that is relevant to the action being proposed. Substantive comments are specific, comparative, or solution oriented. A substantive comment provides the reasons why and goes beyond just expressing an opinion. Comments such as, “The proposed action looks good” is not substantive. We want to know why the proposed action looks good.

This is not a voting process. Comments are considered based on content, not quantity. While all comments will be considered, we find substantive comments related to the alternatives the most useful.

## Where to submit your comments

Please submit comments using one of the methods below (listed in order of preference for ease of processing and reduced costs to the taxpayer in the content analysis process):

### ***E-mail***

Send email to [prescott-forest-plan-comments@fs.fed.us](mailto:prescott-forest-plan-comments@fs.fed.us) using one of the following formats:

- Directly in the body of the message
- As an attachment in word document format (.doc or .docx), portable document format (.pdf), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), or hypertext markup language (.html)

You will receive an automated electronic acknowledgement to confirm receipt of the message. Only the first email from each sender will receive confirmation. If you do not receive this confirming message on the first email, it is your responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

**Postal mail**

Send to:

Prescott National Forest  
Attention: Plan Revision  
344 South Cortez Street  
Prescott, AZ 86303

**Please note**

Comments received, including your name, address, email address, and telephone number (if provided), are considered part of the public record, and will be available for public inspection.

**Next steps:****Public meetings**

Public meetings to share information about the *Draft Plan* and the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* are being scheduled for October 2012 in the communities of Prescott, Chino Valley and Camp Verde. Specific dates and locations will be posted on the Prescott National forest webpage.

**Decision to be made**

Public comments received during the 90-day comment period may be used to modify alternatives, develop new alternatives for consideration, improve analysis of effects, or to make factual corrections. Public comments will help to finalize the Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

The Regional Forester will select from the alternatives evaluated in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement*. A Record of Decision will be published in the summer of 2013 identifying which alternative was selected and why.

**For more information:**

Please contact us if you would like more information about the draft documents or the revision process:

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Thank you for your interest in the Prescott National Forest, and for taking the time to review and comment.